

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims is to replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1. (Currently amended) A respiratory mask, comprising: with
a mask body $[(2)]$; and
an exhalation system, ~~characterized in that the exhalation system comprises~~ including
a large number of membrane elements ~~(8, 14, 15, 17, 20)~~ which are disposed on the mask
body $[(2)]$ and through which the expired air can flow.
2. (Currently amended) The respiratory mask as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~ wherein the membrane elements are designed as flow channels $[(16)]$ delimited by
membrane strips ~~(14, 15)~~.
3. (Currently amended) The respiratory mask as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~ wherein the flow channels $[(16)]$ are arranged in a matrix pattern on the mask body
 $[(2)]$.
4. (Currently amended) The respiratory mask as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~ wherein the membrane elements are designed as parallel membrane films $[(17)]$ which
are provided with openings $[(18)]$.
5. (Currently amended) The respiratory mask as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~ wherein the membrane films are connected to one another in the form of a multilayer
woven fabric.

6. (Currently amended) The respiratory mask as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the membrane elements ~~[[8]]~~ are designed in the form of bendable bars secured at one end.

7. (Currently amended) The respiratory mask as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein the bendable bars include securing positions ~~[[12]]~~ ~~lie~~ lying in the an overlap area of the membrane elements ~~[[8]]~~.

8. (Currently amended) The respiratory mask as claimed in ~~one of claim~~ ~~[[s]]~~ 1 through 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the membrane material is composed of a textile fabric or an elastomer.

9. (Currently amended) The respiratory mask as claimed in ~~one of claim~~ ~~[[s]]~~ 1-8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the membrane material is selected from a group of materials which change their geometry as a result of electric fields.

10. (Currently amended) The respiratory mask as claimed in ~~one of claim~~ ~~[[s]]~~ 1 through 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the membrane material is selected from a group of materials which change their spring rigidity as a result of electric fields.

11. (Currently amended) The respiratory mask as claimed in claim 9 ~~or 10~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the material is a PVDF film.

12 (Original) Use of a material which, as a result of electric fields, changes its geometry or spring rigidity in the region of the exhalation system of a protective respiratory mask as a flow resistance element for influencing the flow of expired air.